

continued from p. 10

they "receive nutritional guidance and health care."

With regard to experience of birth, the committee found that the use of drugs and other artificial means of inducing or facilitating birth should be reconsidered by hospitals. It was reported to the committee that "the common occurrence of minimal brain damage is not commonly realized."

On another plane, the committee recommends the development of the emotional mother-child bond. Greater physical contact after delivery and the encouraging of breastfeeding are examples of how this would be done. Links have been proven connecting early bonding with the parent-child relationship later in life. The committee suggests that the Unemployment Insurance Act allow mothers of hospitalized infants to resume their maternity leave when the child comes home.

It was reported to the committee that, "the key element (in the development of psychopathy, violence and aggression) is the failure of the nurturance in human relationships, beginning with the parent-child relationship." The committee recommends that governments on all levels establish or expand in-home support services for parents. Although the committee con-

cluded that no one factor was responsible for criminal behaviour it said, "Your Committee was forcibly struck by the degree to which the theme of 'violence breeds violence' permeated the testimony of the witnesses we heard and the literature we studied." "Child at Risk" says: "Studies have shown that virtually 'all violent juvenile delinquents have been abused children,' that 'all of the criminals at San Quentin prison studied had violent upbringings as children' and that 'all assassins in the United States in the past twenty years have been victims of child abuse.'" The study defines four types of child abuse: infanticide, the wasted and neglected child (including emotional deprivation), the beaten, burnt, and sadistically injured, and the battered child. It is pointed out that most child abusers were themselves abused children. Clearly the forms and scope of child abuse included a wide range, yet the directness of its link with behavioral problems brought several strong recommendations from the committee. It recommends a review of the criminal code where it is concerned with child abuse. Its view is to perhaps changing the burden of proof in child abuse cases. It also recommends that the section of the code which says parents or guardians or other authorities

are justified in using force to correct a child, be reviewed.

The committee goes on to point out that direct abuse is not the only form of violence that adversely affects a child. Violent quarrels at home or among peers, alcoholic or criminal parents, and violent television heroes are all negative factors that affect the individual exposed to them. Towards ending these problems the committee recommends governmental support on all levels for transition houses, institutions helping battered women and children, and those with drinking problems. It promotes support of crisis or information centres such as the Help Line in Halifax. It recommends greater control of violence on television and encourages high quality children's programming whatever its national origin.

### Search for better social conditions

While minimal brain dysfunction, learning disabilities and hyperactivity cannot be altered when they are present the committee makes recommendations to better social services to minimize the effect of these problems. Permeating these recommendations is the idea that the child have greater rights as an individual. For ex-

ample, the right to legal counsel during family court cases as well as during criminal prosecution. Children should have the right to better daycare facilities readily available to them, and to facilitate providing for their physical or learning disabilities.

The committee does not presume to have the last word on research and information. As is often the case with government studies it begets other government studies, and there are many areas it touches on not fully researched. It recommends the establishment of a body "to be known as The Canadian Institute for the Study of Violence in Society" to co-ordinate the research that has been done and to promote work in areas which need it. For example the committee admits it does not know why some individuals, despite a great many handicaps and risk factors, lead normal and happy lives. It is also interested in promoting what it calls human education, and setting up a task force on suicide.

The recommendations of the committee will serve to inform politicians and hopefully administrators as to the nature and possible solution of the crime problem, but it is unlikely they will be effective without public support. For example, even if halfway houses

for battered women were provided with unlimited funding, they would not produce effective results unless members of the community would accept these institutions into their area and concerned individuals step forward to man them. As students, we may remain relatively untouched at the moment by these problems, yet we are inheriting them. We are dealing largely with segments of society who are not able to defend themselves and it is up to the more fortunate members of society to be their brother's keepers.

Rory O'Day of the Maritime School of Social Work points out that we have a choice. We can take the approach of trying to segregate our children and our communities from those "bad" influences, encourage incarceration and pay for it in terms of the freedom of our own society as well as financially; or we can try to overcome the social problems by becoming involved and increasing our sense of responsibility for the unfortunate. On a most basic level we can "be a force for gentleness" and reject the attitude of "there's nothing I can do." Obviously the changes we are talking about do more than prevent crime, they promote a more liveable society. And that is not simply the job of the government.

# YOU'VE GOT 30 DAYS TO PASS IT OR FAIL IT.



The Braun Standard shaver will give you a shave so close you wouldn't believe you did it with an electric shaver.

It's true. Try it, and if you don't think so, you've got nothing to lose. Return your Braun Standard within 30 days of your purchase and we'll return your money.

That's how confident we are about this shaver. We're sure you'll give it high marks too. Offer & details available at participating electric shaver outlets, drug and department stores.

The Braun Standard shaver comes with a three year warranty.

**BRAUN STANDARD SHAVER  
30 DAY TRIAL OFFER.**

**BRAUN**